

# PRAIRIE RONDE BAPTIST CHURCH



**Celebrating 75 years of service.  
To God and community...  
1924 - 1999**





**FIRST CHURCH BUILDING FOR PRAIRIE RONDE BAPTIST CHURCH**

## **HISTORY OF PRAIRIE RONDE BAPTIST CHURCH**

### **Lest We Forget**

The Pointe au Pain Baptist Church located south of Eunice, in the Fry community, whose pastor was Rev. Maurice Thibodeaux, had members with a son living in the Prairie Ronde community. They brought their son, Claude Diaville, to the church to hear the gospel, where he was converted and baptized. After Claude Diaville's conversion, he invited Rev. Thibodeaux to come to the Prairie Ronde community to hold services in his home. Benches were arranged in front of the porch and services were held. Many came for the services, showing interest in hearing more, therefore plans were made to hold services there on Saturday night. Saturday night the crowd was larger, but some came to break up the service. A shooting incident broke up the service and made it necessary to find another meeting place.



Sunday morning services were held in the home of Pancho Diaville. Also for a time services were held under a brush arbor.

A week or two later a wagon load from the Prairie Ronde community went to the Pointe au Pain church. Nineteen were converted and baptized the next day in the bayou south of Eunice, near the railroad bridge. Some of these were Mr. & Mrs. Ledo Pitre, Mr. & Mrs. Amos Pitre, Pancho Diaville family, and others. This group formed a mission, meeting in the home of Artimone Pitre with Rev. Michelle Sallassie as pastor. Later Rev. Lucien Smith held a revival when "Noncle Jim" Bertrand and some of his family was converted. The date when this group organized into the Prairie Ronde Baptist Church is approximately 1924. The church grew, obtained land to build a church building and for a cemetery to bury their dead. The land was a donation without any deed given to the church. Later the donors' property was sold without reserving the church and cemetery property. This killed the work of the church, which then disbanded and the membership was brought to the Lejeune Memorial Baptist Church of Eunice.

Through the efforts of Rev. Adea Vidrine and with the help of the First Baptist Church of Ville Platte; on March 4, 1934 thirty four (34) persons with letters from the Ville Platte church met at Prairie Ronde and reorganized themselves into the Prairie Ronde Baptist Church. Rev. Adea Vidrine was called as pastor and Bro. Elton Granger was elected clerk of the church.

The majority of the church members were share croppers. The finances were low. The pastors were paid sometimes with produce such as rice, potatoes, geese, ducks, chickens and such. According to the church records their salaries were sometimes as much as \$2.02 a month or even as high as \$2.62 a month depending on the offerings collected. One revival pastor received fifty (50) pounds of rice, one (1) goose and \$7.47 in cash. It was recorded their revivals were usually for two weeks.

Through many hardships and trials and through much joy and love the work of this church has persevered with the help and support of our Lord and Savior. AMEN!



**OZEMA BERTRAND AND GENEVIEVE BERTRAND**



Ozema Bertrand donated the land on which the Prairie Ronde Baptist Church and cemetery are presently located.





# Founding Members



Elton Granger



Evila Granger

Mr. and Mrs. Elton Granger



Sias and Wilda Deville



ENIAS "BIG" AND ELECTA  
Ernest





This is how Prairie Ronde Baptist Church looked until a tornado knocked the steeple off of the church. The steeple was never again erected.



SECOND  
CHURCH  
BUILDING  
FOR PRAIRIE  
RONDE  
BAPTIST



# OLDEST MEMBER



***MS. AMY BOONE***



**OLDEST LIVING  
MEMBER**

**AGE 91**







**Amos Pitre, wife, child, Poncho**

*Wife Lezade Elizabeth Deville & Kays (Boley)*



**TOUJEUNE**

*Theogene*



**PANCHO DIAVILLE**

*Onesime*



**LEDO AND EVA PITRE**



**ARTEMONT AND IRMA LUQUETTE PITRE**

*Artemon*





# OLD FASHIONED REVIVAL NIGHT



BELL PITRE,  
RED ORTEGO, AND  
MELBA LEE WIN FOR  
BEST COSTUMES



MARTHA AND  
LYNN  
GRANGER



MRS. RUBY GRANGER RECEIVES A PLAQUE  
FOR 30 YEARS OF SERVICE AS CHURCH TREASURER.





# SCENES FROM



**CHURCH MEMBERSHIP AROUND 1952**



**FIRST VBS  
HELD AT  
PRAIRIE  
RONDE  
BAPTIST -  
UNDER A  
TENT**

**LEDO PITRE  
AND WIFE  
APRIL 1954**





M T H E



1950's



**SUNDAY  
SCHOOL  
CLASSES**



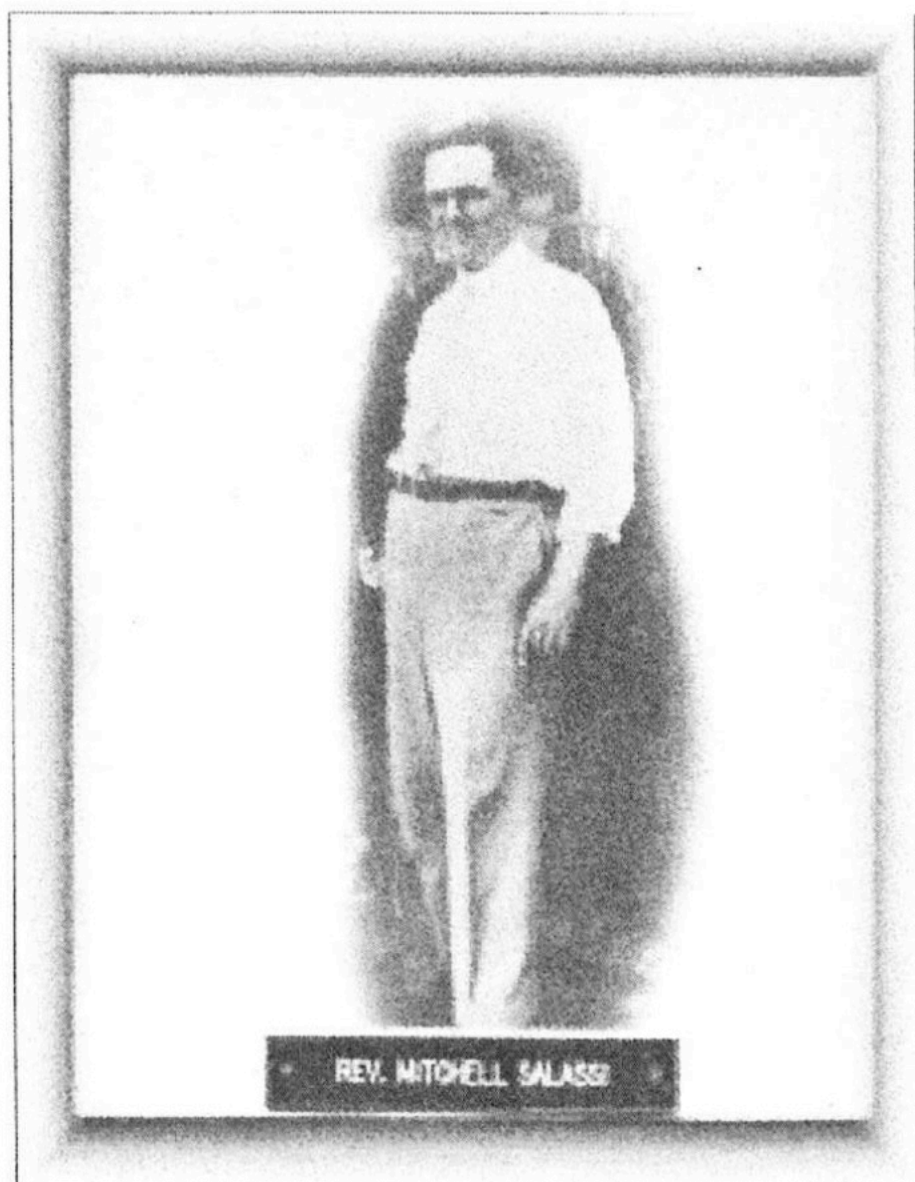
**REVEREND  
TRUMAN AND  
MRS. THELMA  
GRANGER**







# FORMER



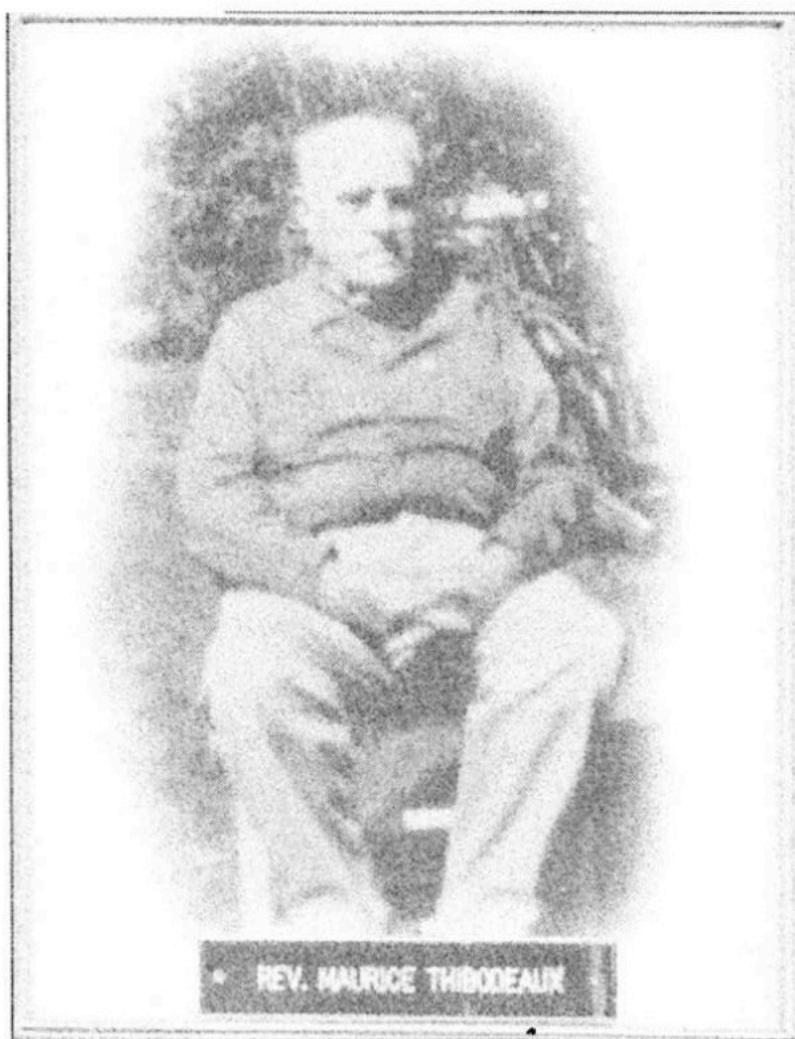
**MITCHELL  
SALASSI**

First Pastor  
of Prairie  
Ronde Baptist  
Church



**CERIL CORMIER**

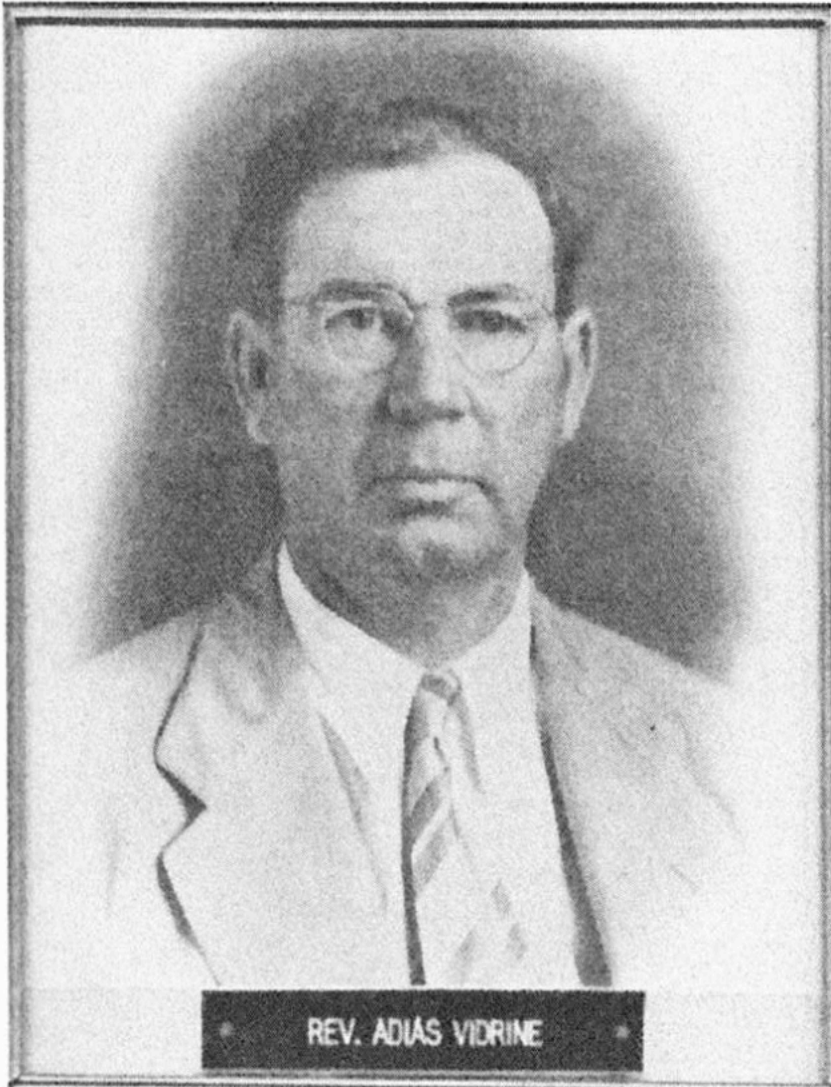
PASTOR FOR 10 YEARS  
APPROX. 1950 – 1960



**REV. MAURICE THIBODEAUX**



# PASTORS



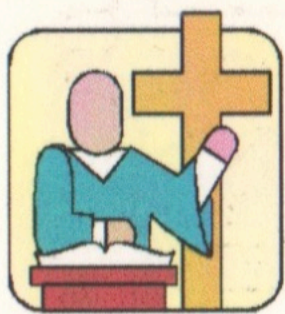
**NOT PICTURED, BUT  
REMEMBERED -**

**BRO. JOE MILLER**

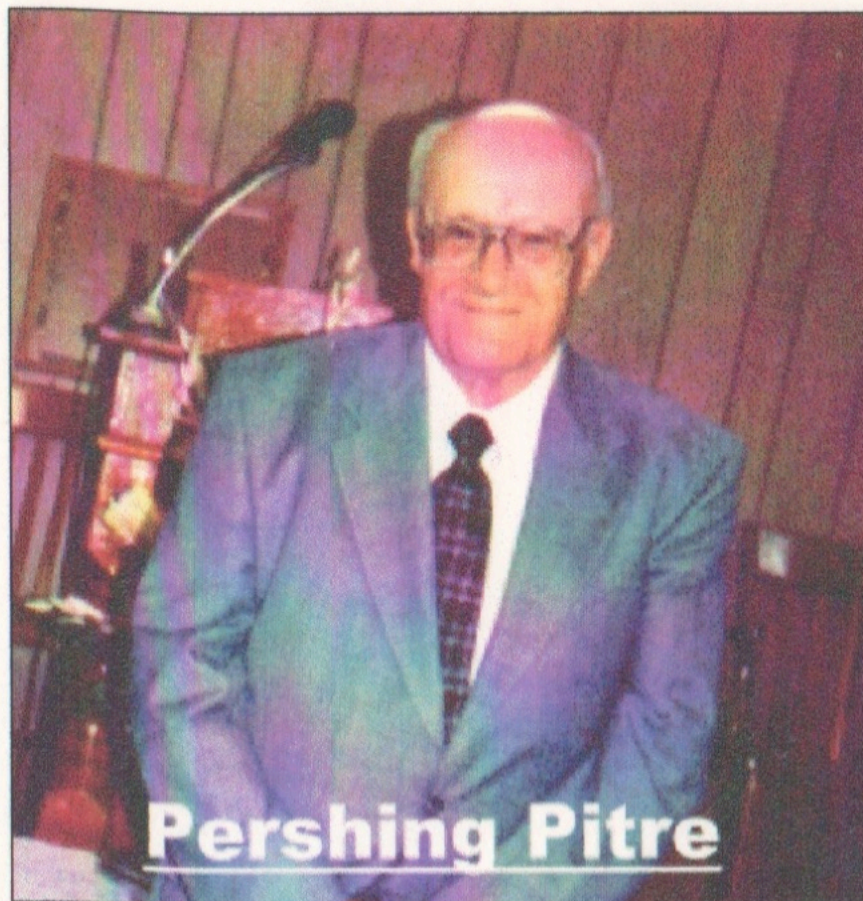


**PASTOR FOR 30 YEARS  
1960 - 1990**

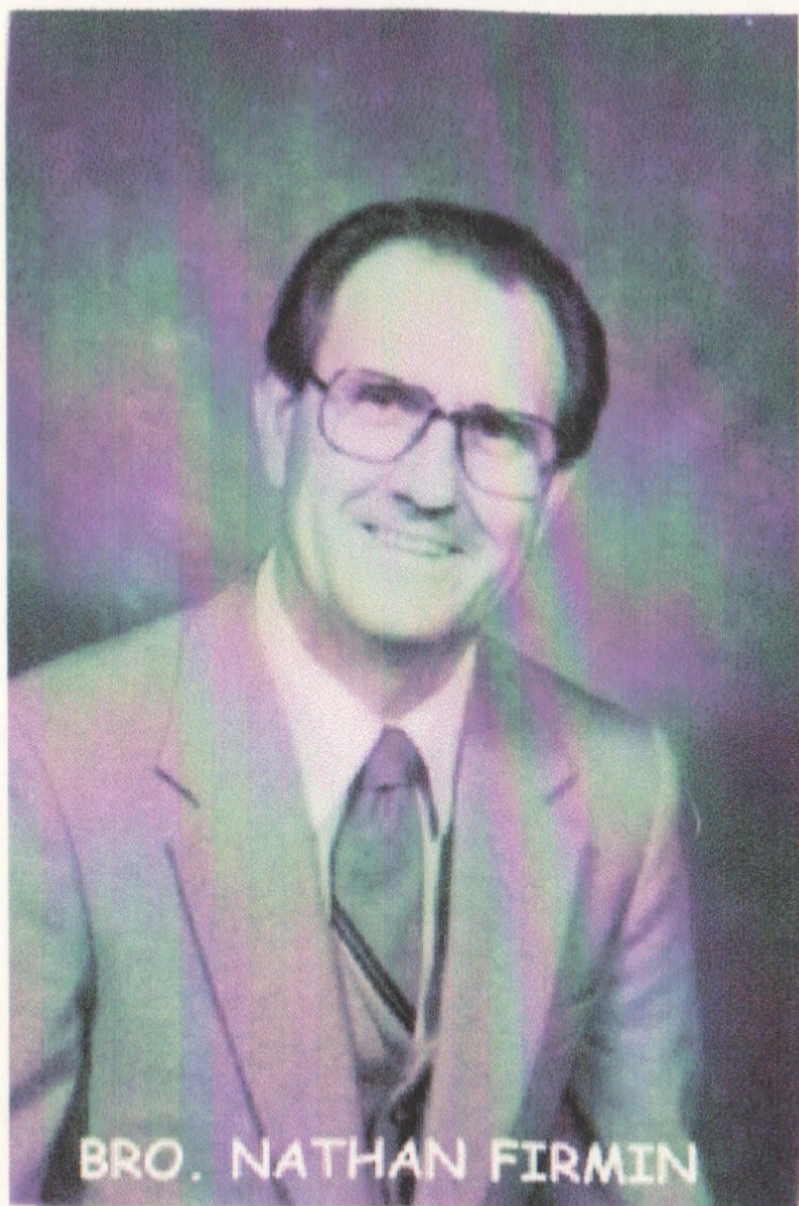




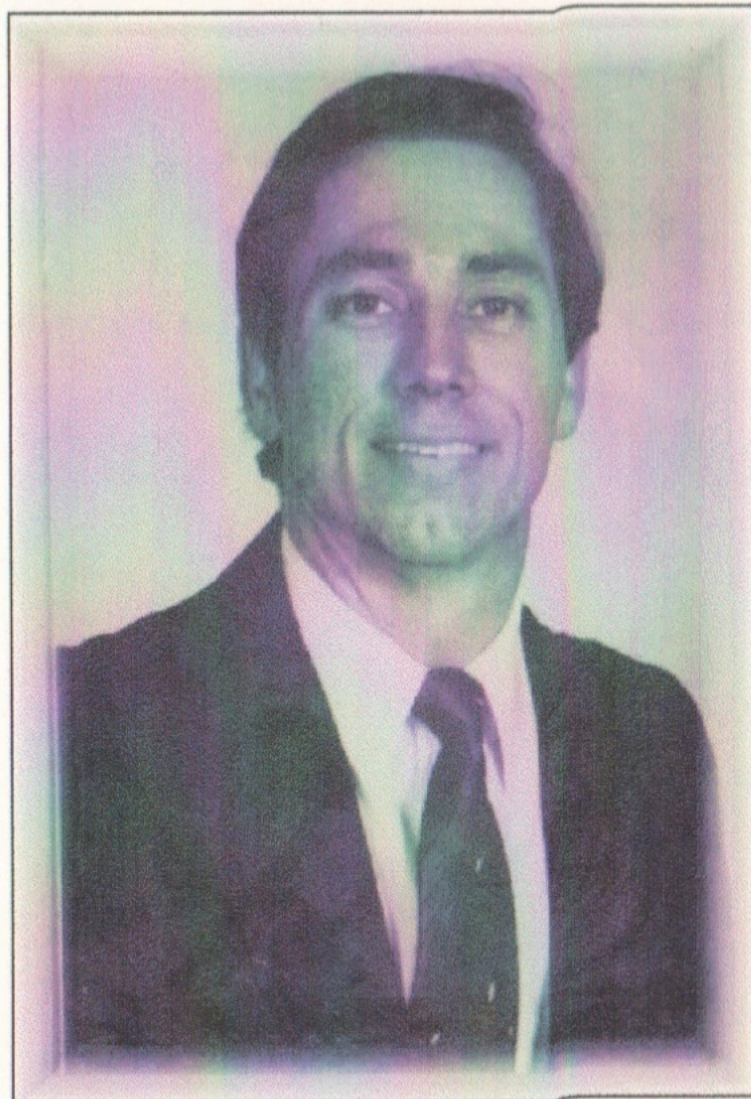
# FORMER



**Pershing Pitre**



**BRO. NATHAN FIRMIN**



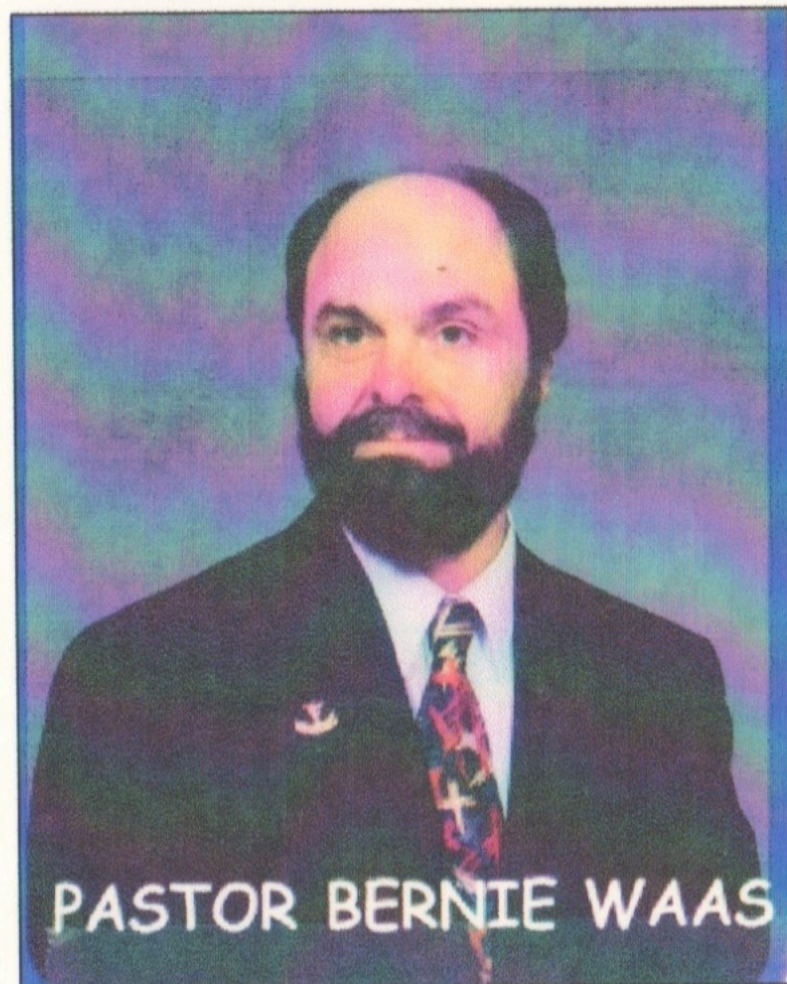
**GREG GASPARD**



# PASTORS



**PRESENT PASTOR  
BRO. BERNIE WAAS**



PASTOR BERNIE WAAS



THE PRAIRIE RONDE Baptist Church celebrated its 31st anniversary Sunday by inviting four of its former pastors to participate in the services. From left are Rev. T. L. Granger, pastor; Ceril Cormier, Rev. Webb Gatte, Rev. Pershing Pitre and Rev. Maurice Thibodeaux.



**WE THANK YOU FOR  
JOINING OUR CELEBRATION!  
PRAIRIE RONDE BAPTIST CHURCH**

**SUNDAY WORSHIP  
SERVICES**

**9:45 AM & 5:30 PM**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL  
8:30 AM**

**WEDNESDAY STUDY GROUPS  
ALL AGES 6:30 PM**

**JOIN OUR FAMILY!!**

**If you are looking for a church home, we invite you to join our church family of faith.**

**IF YOU ARE NOT YET A CHRISTIAN.....**

**We would be happy to speak to you personally about how you can put your faith in Jesus Christ.**

**IF YOU ARE ALREADY A CHRISTIAN, BUT NOT BAPTIZED.....you may join us by believer's baptism.**

**IF YOU ARE A MEMBER OF ANOTHER CHURCH.... You may be able to join us through requesting a letter from your former church.**

**IF YOU ARE JUST VISITING, WE ARE GLAD TO WELCOME YOU TO WORSHIP!**